

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 3, 4, 6-10 and 21-29 are pending. Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 2, 11-20 were previously cancelled. Claims 21-25 are amended, and claims 26-29 are added. Claims 22-25 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-208699 filed on July 17, 2002. Clarification is requested in the next official communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright (U.S. 2,782,862) in view of Mendham (U.S. 5,269,057),

claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright in view of Mendham, and further in view of Camping et al. (U.S. 2,698,666); and

claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright in view of Mendham and further in view of Platt et al. (U.S. 412, 908).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 22, 23, 24, and 25

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application,

independent claim 22 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a blade member for an airplane, including *inter alia*

a wall thickness of the second outer skin being greater than a wall thickness of the first outer skin in a cord direction forward of said at least one reinforcing area;

independent claim 23 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a blade member for an airplane, including *inter alia*

the wall thickness of the first outer skin includes a central portion that is thicker relative to a portion adjacent to the leading edge and a portion adjacent to the trailing edge;

independent claim 24 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a blade member for an airplane, including *inter alia*

a wall thickness of the second outer skin being smaller than a wall thickness of the first outer skin in a cord direction rearward of said at least one reinforcing area; and

independent claim 25 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a blade member for an airplane, including *inter alia*

the first outer skin and the second outer skin each have a thick wall portion and a thin wall portion, wherein the thick wall portions of the first and second outer skins are offset relative to each other in a cord direction.

Support for the novel features and configuration can be seen, for example, in FIG. 1.

The primary reference, Wright, merely discloses forming a propeller blade by preparing two members 1, 2 of identical configuration or symmetrical with respect to the division line 10, as shown in Fig. 2.

The Mendham document merely discloses use of wire electrical discharge machining in making airfoil components.

The Janicke et al. and Huet documents merely disclose forming integral parts from a block.

Further, the Platt et al. document (Fig. 7 for example) merely discloses upper and lower outer skins that are mirror images of one another. Platt et al. disclose upper and lower outer skins with thicknesses that reduce gradually by the same rate in the cord direction from front to back.

At least for the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 22-25 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Wright, Mendham, Janicke et al., Huet, and Platt et al.

Therefore, independent claims 22-25 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claim 21 is amended, and dependent claims 26-29 are added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete

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response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

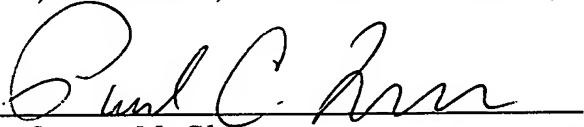
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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